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## A Biographical Study of Ishmael

Harold Willmington

*Liberty University*, [hwillmington@liberty.edu](mailto:hwillmington@liberty.edu)

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# *Ishmael*

## CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY

- I. The prophecies concerning Ishmael
  - A. Before his birth
    - 1. Ishmael's name was given to his mother Hagar by the Lord himself before his birth (Gen. 16:11).
    - 2. God also predicted he would live a wild life, fighting with both friend and foe (Gen. 16:12).
  - B. After his birth
    - 1. God promised Abraham that he would bless Ishmael, and make him the father of 12 rulers (Gen. 17:20; 25:13-16).
    - 2. Ishmael was circumcised by Abraham when he was 13 years old (Gen. 17:24-26).
- II. The provocation by Ishmael
  - A. Later Ishmael incurred the wrath of Sarah when he mocked her son Isaac on the day set aside to celebrate his weaning (Gen. 21:9-10).
  - B. At the command of God, Abraham sent both Hagar and Ishmael away from his camp (Gen. 21:11-13).
- III. The provision
  - A. God made provision for Ishmael as he grew up in the desert of Paran, where he became an archer (Gen. 21:20-21).
  - B. He later married an Egyptian wife (Gen. 21:21).
  - C. One of his daughters was named Mahalath. She later became the wife of Esau (Gen. 28:9; 36:3).

## STATISTICS

*Father:* Abraham (Gen. 16:15)

*Mother:* Hagar (Gen. 16:15)

*Daughter:* Mahalath (Gen. 28:9; 36:3)

*Brothers:* Half-brothers were: Isaac, Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, and Shuah (Gen. 21:3; 25:2)

*First mention:* Genesis 16:11

*Final mention:* 1 Chronicles 1:31

*Meaning of his name:* "God is hearing"

*Frequency of his name:* Referred to 20 times

*Biblical books mentioning him:* Two books (Genesis, 1 Chronicles)

*Occupation:* Hunter (Archer? Gen. 21:20)

*Age at death:* 137 (Gen. 25:17)

*Important fact about his life:* He was Abraham's first son (Gen. 16:15)